CLAIMS

1. A method in a server-client environment, the method comprising:

receiving a driver identifier for a printer attached to the client;

using the driver identifier to select a closest matching driver of a plurality of drivers to install at the server;

installing, at the server, the selected driver; and

allowing applications executing on the server to print to the printer using the installed driver.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the receiving comprises receiving the driver identifier from the client.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the driver identifier includes both a driver name and a driver version.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the using comprises accessing a library at the server that stores the plurality of drivers.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the using comprises checking whether any of the plurality of drivers has a corresponding driver identifier that is the same as the received driver identifier; and

if a particular driver of the plurality of drivers has a corresponding driver identifier that is the same as the received driver identifier, then selecting that driver to install at the server.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the using comprises checking whether any of the plurality of drivers currently has a corresponding driver identifier that is different than the received driver identifier but that corresponds to the same driver as the received driver identifier; and

if a particular driver of the plurality of drivers currently has a corresponding driver identifier that is different than the received driver identifier but that corresponds to the same driver as the received driver identifier, then selecting that driver to install at the server.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein one of the plurality of drivers currently has a corresponding driver identifier that is different than the received driver identifier but that corresponds to the same driver because of a driver name change by a source of the driver.

8. A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising:

issuing a notification that the selected driver currently has a corresponding driver identifier that is different than the received driver identifier but that corresponds to the same driver as the received driver identifier.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the receiving comprises receiving a driver name and a driver version;

the using comprises checking whether any of the plurality of drivers has a corresponding driver name that is the same as the received driver name; and

if a particular driver of the plurality of drivers has a corresponding driver name that is the same as the received driver name, then selecting that driver to install at the server.

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10. A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

selecting a first driver with a corresponding driver name that is the same as the received driver name to install at the server without regard for whether the received driver version is the same as a corresponding driver version of the first driver.

11. A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

issuing a notification that the selected driver has a corresponding driver name that is the same as the received driver name but a corresponding driver version that is different than the received driver version.

12. A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

checking whether the selected driver has a corresponding driver version that is the same as the received driver version; and

if the selected driver does not have a corresponding driver version that is the same as the received driver version, then obtaining a new copy of the driver that has the same driver version as the received driver version.

13. A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising obtaining a new copy of the driver only if the received driver version indicates a more recent version of the driver than is indicated by the driver version corresponding to the selected driver.

14. At least one computer-readable memory containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

15. A method implemented in a server in a server-client environment, the method comprising:

automatically selecting at least one of a plurality of drivers corresponding to a peripheral device attached to the client; and

installing, at the server, the selected at least one driver.

16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the peripheral device comprises a printer.

17. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the automatically selecting comprises using a received driver identifier corresponding to a printer to select a closest matching driver of the plurality of drivers to install at the server.

18. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein:

the automatically selecting comprises checking whether any of the plurality of drivers has a corresponding driver identifier that is the same as a received driver identifier; and

if a particular driver of the plurality of drivers has a corresponding driver identifier that is the same as the received driver identifier, then installing that driver at the server.

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19. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein:

the automatically selecting comprises checking whether any of the plurality of drivers currently has a corresponding driver identifier that is different than a received driver identifier but that corresponds to the same driver as the received driver identifier; and

if a particular driver of the plurality of drivers currently has a corresponding driver identifier that is different than the received driver identifier but that corresponds to the same driver as the received driver identifier, then installing that driver at the server.

20. A method as recited in claim 19, further comprising:

issuing a notification that the installed driver currently has a corresponding driver identifier that is different than the received driver identifier but that corresponds to the same driver as the received driver identifier.

21. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein:

the automatically selecting comprises checking whether any of the plurality of drivers has a corresponding driver name that is the same as a received driver name; and

if a particular driver of the plurality of drivers has a corresponding driver name that is the same as the received driver name, then installing that driver at the server.

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22. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

selecting a first driver with a corresponding driver name that is the same as the received driver name to install at the server without regard for whether a received driver version is the same as a corresponding driver version of the first driver.

23. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

issuing a notification that the installed driver has a corresponding driver name that is the same as the received driver name but a corresponding driver version that is different than the received driver version.

24. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

checking whether the installed driver has a corresponding driver version that is the same as a received driver version; and

if the selected driver does not have a corresponding driver version that is the same as the received driver version, then obtaining a new copy of the driver that has the same driver version as the received driver version.

25. At least one computer-readable memory containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 15.

26. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors of a server, causes the one or more processors to:

receive a printer driver identifier for a printer attached to a client;

use the printer driver identifier to select one of a plurality of printer drivers to install at the server according to the following,

if a particular printer driver of the plurality of printer drivers has a corresponding printer driver identifier that is the same as the received printer driver identifier, then selecting that particular driver,

if a particular printer driver of the plurality of printer drivers currently has a corresponding printer driver identifier that is different than the received printer driver identifier but that corresponds to the same printer driver as the received printer driver identifier, then selecting that particular printer driver, and

if a particular printer driver of the plurality of printer drivers has a corresponding driver name that is the same as a driver name received as part of the printer driver identifier, then selecting that particular printer driver without regard for whether that particular printer driver has a corresponding driver version that is the same as a driver version received as part of the printer driver identifier; and

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install, at the server, the selected printer driver.

27. A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the server comprises a terminal server and wherein the client comprises a terminal server client.

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28. A method as recited in claim 26, wherein one of the plurality of printer drivers currently has a corresponding printer driver identifier that is different than the received printer driver identifier but that corresponds to the same printer driver due to a name of the printer driver being changed.

29. An apparatus comprising:

a driver library including a plurality of printer drivers; and

a driver matching module to select at least one of the plurality of printer drivers for installation on the apparatus, the selected at least one printer driver corresponding to a printer attached to a client computer.

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30. An apparatus as recited in claim 29, wherein the driver matching module is further to:

check whether any of the plurality of drivers has a corresponding driver identifier that is the same as a received driver identifier; and

if a particular driver of the plurality of drivers has a corresponding driver identifier that is the same as the received driver identifier, then install that driver on the apparatus.

31. An apparatus as recited in claim 29, further comprising:

a mapping table to map previous driver identifiers to subsequent driver identifiers;

wherein the driver matching module is further to check the mapping table to determine whether any of the plurality of drivers currently has a corresponding driver identifier that is different than a received driver identifier but that is a subsequent driver identifier mapped to the received driver identifier as a previous driver identifier; and

if a particular driver of the plurality of drivers currently has a corresponding driver identifier that is different than a received driver identifier but that is a subsequent driver identifier mapped to the received driver identifier as a previous driver identifier, then the driver matching module is further to install that driver at the server.

32. An apparatus as recited in claim 29, wherein the driver matching module is further to:

check whether any of the plurality of printer drivers has a corresponding driver name that is the same as a received driver name; and

if a particular printer driver of the plurality of printer drivers has a corresponding driver name that is the same as the received driver name, then install that printer driver on the apparatus without regard for whether that particular printer driver has a corresponding driver version that is the same as a received driver version.

33. A system comprising:

a client computer having a local printer attached thereto; and

a server computer coupled to the client computer via a network, wherein the server computer includes,

a driver library including a plurality of printer drivers, and

a driver matching module to select at least one of the plurality of printer drivers for installation on the server computer to allow applications executing on the server computer to print to the local printer, the driver matching module selecting one of the plurality of printer drivers for installation based on a printer driver identifier and according to the following,

if a particular printer driver of the plurality of printer drivers has a corresponding printer driver identifier that is the same as the received printer driver identifier, then selecting that particular driver for installation,

if a particular printer driver of the plurality of printer drivers currently has a corresponding printer driver identifier that is different than the received printer driver identifier but that corresponds to the same printer driver as the received printer driver identifier, then selecting that particular printer driver for installation, and

if a particular printer driver of the plurality of printer drivers has a corresponding driver name that is the same as a driver name received as part of the printer driver identifier, then selecting that particular printer driver without regard for whether that particular printer driver has a corresponding driver version that is the same as a

driver version received as part of the printer driver identifier for installation.

34. A system as recited in claim 33, wherein the client computer is to transmit the printer driver identifier to the server computer.